

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hugh R. Sharkey et al. Art Unit : 3739
Serial No. : 10/712,007 Examiner : Michael F. Peffley
Filed : November 14, 2003 Conf. No. : 7818
Title : METHOD FOR TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

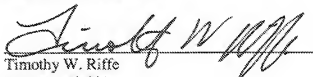
Applicants request consideration of the reference listed on the attached PTO-1449 form.

This statement is being filed after the mailing of a first Office action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a final action under §1.113. No item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing date of this statement.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 11, 2007



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| Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified) | U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office | Attorney's Docket No. 22416-014005 | Application No. 10/712,007 |
| Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) | | Applicant Hugh R. Sharkey et al. | |
| | | Filing Date November 14, 2003 | Group Art Unit 3739 |

(37 CFR §1.98(b))

U.S. Patent Documents

| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document Number | Publication Date | Patentee | Class | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate |
|------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| | AA | 6,562,033 | 05/13/2003 | Shah et al. | | | |
| | AB | | | | | | |
| | AC | | | | | | |
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Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications

| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document Number | Publication Date | Country or Patent Office | Class | Subclass | Translation | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
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Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication)

| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document |
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| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
| EXAMINER: Initiate citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |